

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) An absorbent structure in an absorbent article selected from the group consisting of a diaper, a pant diaper, an incontinence guard, and a sanitary napkin, said structure comprising a combination of a porous material selected from the group consisting of fibers, foam and mixtures thereof, and a superabsorbent material, wherein the absorbent structure contains at least 50% by weight of superabsorbent material, based on the total weight of the structure in dry condition in at least one area thereof in which the superabsorbent material is distributed; said superabsorbent material being in the form of a powder, grains or granules, and being initially crosslinked by ionic bonds with an ionic crosslinking agent comprising a polyvalent metal an aluminate ion; the superabsorbent material being also covalently cross-linked.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The absorbent structure according to claim 13, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises a polymer with anionic functional groups.

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